

390 City Hall 15 West Kellogg Boulevard Saint Paul, MN 55102 Telephone: 651-266-8510 Facsimile: 651-228-8513

For Immediate Release February 22, 2008

Contact:
Sheree Savage
Saint Paul Public Libraries
sheree.savage@stpaul.gov

Bob Hume Mayor's Office bob.hume@stpaul.gov 651.266.8518

Mayor Coleman Announces College Goal Sunday on February 24th

651.266.7029

Sun Ray Library to Host Event to Guide Students through Financial Aid
Application Process

(Saint Paul) – In conjunction with the opening of The Doorway, a new college and career resource center, Mayor Coleman announced today that Sun Ray Library will host College Goal Sunday on **February 24, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.** to assist all college-bound students in Saint Paul as they complete the <u>Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)</u> — the form required by colleges and universities to qualify for scholarships, grants and loans. In addition, participants will be eligible to win a \$500 scholarship to be applied to educational expenses at any college or university.

College Goal Sunday will empower students with information and access to financial aid resources. The event is sponsored by the Minnesota Office of Higher Education and financial aid experts will be available to provide free assistance to students.

"By offering students free advice and assistance in completing FAFSA forms, we are removing a barrier to achieving higher education. In addition to our newly-opened college and career resource centers, this is yet one more component of our efforts in Saint Paul to ensure that every child succeeds," Coleman said. "The financial aid process can be daunting and is especially intimidating to families facing this task for the first time. This opportunity will provide all college-bound students with the support and resources they need to make their dreams a reality."

Students 23 years of age or younger should attend with a parent or guardian and bring their parents' completed IRS 1040 tax form, W-2 form or other income and benefits information. Students 24 years old or older may attend on their own and bring their completed IRS 1040 tax return, W-2 form or other income or benefits information.

The Doorway will open soon at Sun Ray Library, 2105 Wilson Avenue in Saint Paul. In this center, residents can access education and career materials and a specialized database with a toolbox of information including practice SAT and ACT exams, interest inventories, and scholarships and financial aid. The Doorway will offer youth opportunities to talk with skilled professionals about college and career options and access software to assist in creating a resume and searching for jobs.

For more information on The Doorway: College and Career Resource Centers, visit www.stpaul.gov/mayor/education.

For more information on College Goal Sunday, please call the Sun Ray Library at 651-501-6300.

###